

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

May 6, 2014 |

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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**7TH NATIONAL
FARM TO CAFETERIA CONFERENCE**
AUSTIN, TEXAS | APRIL 15-18, 2014

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference! It was a great success. You can access all the terrific resources [here](#).

General Updates

Wisconsin AmeriCorps Farm to School Program: Accepting Partner Site Applications

The AmeriCorps Farm to School program provides an innovative approach to decreasing childhood obesity through promoting healthy eating habits in students K-12 and increasing access to local foods in schools. In anticipation of receiving continued funding for the 2014-2015 program year, we are soliciting requests for as many as TWO new partner sites. In the 2013-2014 Program Year, the program was awarded Competitive Funding for a contract period of August 15, 2013 through August 14, 2016, subject to annual review. The following is a request for two new partner sites for the 2014-2015 program year. If application is accepted and performance in year one is satisfactory, a continuation request would be requested for the 2015-2016 program year. Materials are available [here](#).

USDA INVESTS \$7 MILLION TO RESEARCH CHALLENGES FACING SMALL FARMS

On April 29, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced more than \$7 million in funding to support research on the profitability of small- and

Expanded Eligibility for Summer Food and CACFP Child Care Homes

[New guidance](#) (pdf) from USDA means that more sites and homes in low-income areas might be eligible for Summer Food or for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The new guidance allows Summer Food sites and child care homes to qualify using Census Tracts in addition to Census Block Groups (CBG). The previous policy allowed only CBG. This change will allow more low-income communities to qualify Summer Food sites and child care homes.

To see if a site is eligible, use FRAC's [Summer Food Mapper](#) and [CACFP Mapper](#), which have been updated with the new data.

New Resources

Updated Wisconsin Farm to School Toolkit for school nutrition programs online now

The [WI Farm to School Toolkit](#) provides you with all the tools you need to create a successful farm to school program in your community! The toolkit is interactive and contains a wealth of information! The recently updated toolkit includes many brand new tools, including information on wellness policies, school gardens, farm to school evaluation and more! (Hard copies will be available soon – stay tuned for more details.)

Harvest For Healthy Kids – Great Farm to Preschool Harvest of the Month Resources

This new resource from Oregon is not to be missed! These curriculum-development and promotional materials target PK audiences with great information about healthy and fresh foods. The graphics are sensational too. <http://www.harvestforhealthykids.com/>

Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy in to Practice

The new Wellness Policy Guide from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is now available online at http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_wellnessplcy2.

AMS Commodity Schedule

The 2014-2015 Purchase Schedule has been posted to the AMS Commodity Procurement website (www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing). To reach the data directly, click [2014-2015 AMS PURCHASE SCHEDULE](#) (Excel).

Interested in learning more about multi-cultural gardens?

Check out the May edition of the [Wisconsin School Garden Initiative](#) newsletter

Webinars, Conferences and Events

USDA Bi-Monthly Webinar Series

From January to June 2014, the USDA Farm to School Program will host two webinars per month on various aspects of local procurement. The webinars will be held at 2 p.m. Eastern Time on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and will include guest speakers from state agencies and school districts. For more information and to register, please visit the [webinar series website](#).

Going for Green: Getting Federal Funding

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 2 to 3 p.m. EST

This Webinar will highlight lesser-known federal funding opportunities such as Specialty Crop Block Grants, Community Development Block Grants, Community Development Financial Institutions and USDA rural development grants.

Summertime in the School Garden: Exploring Opportunities to Support and Share Your School Garden

May 28, 4 - 5 p.m. EST

Hosted by EdWeb and the National Farm to School Network

Summertime presents both unique challenges and important opportunities when it comes to school gardens. Mary Stein, Associate Director of the National Farm to School Network, hosts two partners from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project and the USDA-FNS for a discussion of various aspects of school gardens in summer.

Calling all Teachers ... Growing Minds: Garden-Based Learning from the Ground Up

Dates: July 21-25, 2014, 8 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$140

Credit: 1-2 semester units of graduate credit available at additional cost of \$60/credit

Place: Community GroundWorks Kids' Garden, Madison, Wisconsin

Instructor: Nathan Larson, Education Director, Community GroundWorks

This five-day, 20-hour course is designed for K-12 teachers and community educators from throughout Wisconsin who are interested in building skills in the areas of youth garden education, development and management. This course will emphasize an inquiry-based, hands-on approach to garden-based learning. Course topics will include youth garden design and construction, funding and resources, recommended tools and equipment, organic gardening methods, cooking in a garden kitchen, garden-based nutrition, nature study and games, earth art, chickens in the garden, program evaluation and the role of youth gardening in the sustainable agriculture movement. Course instruction will take place outdoors in the award-winning Kids' Garden at Troy Gardens. Please bring sunscreen, drinking water, and appropriate clothing for the weather (e.g., hats, sunglasses, rain jacket). Enrollment is limited to 20 educators.

Farm to School Job Openings

FoodCorps Data and Evaluation Manager

FoodCorps seeks a highly skilled and detail-oriented Data and Evaluation Manager to oversee the programmatic data collection, monitoring, and evaluation efforts for this rapidly scaling social enterprise. Your role will ensure that FoodCorps, as a data-driven organization, fully understands our impact in the field, and you will help us leverage that knowledge for maximum programmatic and organizational development. The Data and Evaluation Manager will report to the Director of Sites and Impact and will work closely with the full Programs Team and occasionally with staff from outside the Programs department. The Data and Evaluation Manager will play a critical behind-the-scenes role facilitating FoodCorps service member and site reporting, implementing data quality monitoring systems, coordinating collection of outcome evaluation data, and carrying out the subsequent analysis and reporting of findings to internal and external partners. Thanks to your systems-orientation and organizational skills, our entire team will benefit in its ability to uniformly store, access, use, and communicate data across roles and responsibilities. This position is a full-time manager-level position based in FoodCorps' Portland, Oregon office. <https://foodcorps.hiringthing.com/job/17349/data-and-evaluation-manager>

Dane County (WI) AmeriCorps VISTA Positions

Dane County UW-Extension is seeking candidates for two summer AmeriCorps VISTA positions. These are short term appointments for 6/24/2014-8/18/2014. In return for their service, the AmeriCorps VISTA members will receive a modest living allowance and an option for receiving an education award after completing their service.

Position 1 - Gardens for Empowerment: Gardens for Empowerment (G4E) is about working with youth to transform the physical environment of their neighborhoods with the goals of violence prevention, increasing social capital, beautification, building local food systems, community development and youth leadership. Preference given to individuals who live in or near the Brentwood neighborhood on the north side of Madison for this position. **Apply by May 8, 2014.** Send cover letter and resume via e-mail to hankey.joe@countyofdane.com or via surface mail to: Joe Hankey, Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI 53718. [VISTA 1 summer position](#)

Position 2 - Community Garden Position: The VISTA will work closely with the Dane County UW-Extension Community Development Educator, other Extension Educators, other community organizations and volunteers to research and develop a sustainable community garden plan for Madison and Dane County. The VISTA will provide support for garden leaders, other volunteers and community garden groups in access to resources and planning activities. The VISTA also will assist with neighborhood development and other community capacity projects. **Apply by May 8, 2014.** Send cover letter and resume via e-mail to Sharon Lezberg at lezberg.sharon@countyofdane.com or via surface mail to: Sharon Lezberg, Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI 53718.

Education Coordinator, National Farmers Union Foundation

The National Farmers Union Foundation (NFUF) seeks a team-oriented, detail-minded full-time coordinator to support the Foundation's education and development team in initiating growth through a variety of strategies. As an educational foundation, the coordinator will assist in planning and preparing youth and adult non-institutional education programs and events, plus develop the annual curriculum used by Farmers Union state organizations during summer camps, day classes and adult meetings.

Job Opening at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance is looking for another National Nutrition Advisor. This individual will work with both school districts and out-of-school sites to focus on successfully implementing afterschool snacks/meals, supper programs and summer meals acting as a 'bridge' between schools and other community sites.

Farm to School Funding Opportunities

Rural Health and Safety Education Program

Focus of the Rural Health and Safety Education Program in FY2014 is on community-based, outreach education and extension programs that provide individuals and families with: a) Information as to the value of good health at any age; b) Information to increase individual or family's motivation to take more responsibility for their own health; c) Information regarding rural environmental health issues that directly impact on human health; d) Information about and access to health promotion and educational activities; and e) Training for volunteers and health services providers concerning health promotion and health care services for individuals and families in cooperation with state, local and community partners. Learn more [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.